Withdrawal of CRPF from Reserve Forests of Orissa

2820. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision has been taken that the Central Reserve Police Force is likely to be withdrawn from protection duty of the Barbera Reserved Forests in the State of Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether as per reply submitted in this House it was stated that the presence of the CRPF prevented the heavy timber smuggling in those forests;

(d) whether Union Government would give an assurance that after the withdrawal of the CRPF there would not be any timber smuggling or wildlife poaching; and

(e) if not, then why should the CRPF not continue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (e) In order to meet the requirements of force for Internal Security/Counter Insurgency duties, it has been decided to hand over the responsibility of forest protection to the State Police. Chief Minister of Orissa has informed that the State Government of Orissa is raising Forest Protection Force in the State. The deployment of CRPF has been continued for a further period of six months in February, 2003 so that the State Government should be in a position to raise the said force to take over the duties from CRPF. The deployment of specially raised Forest Protection Force in Orissa should ensure prevention of timber smuggling and wild-life poaching.

Meetings of Hindi Salahkar Samities

†2821. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quarterly meetings of Hindi Salahkar Samities in Ministries are to be presided over by Cabinet Ministers as per Official Languages Act;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.